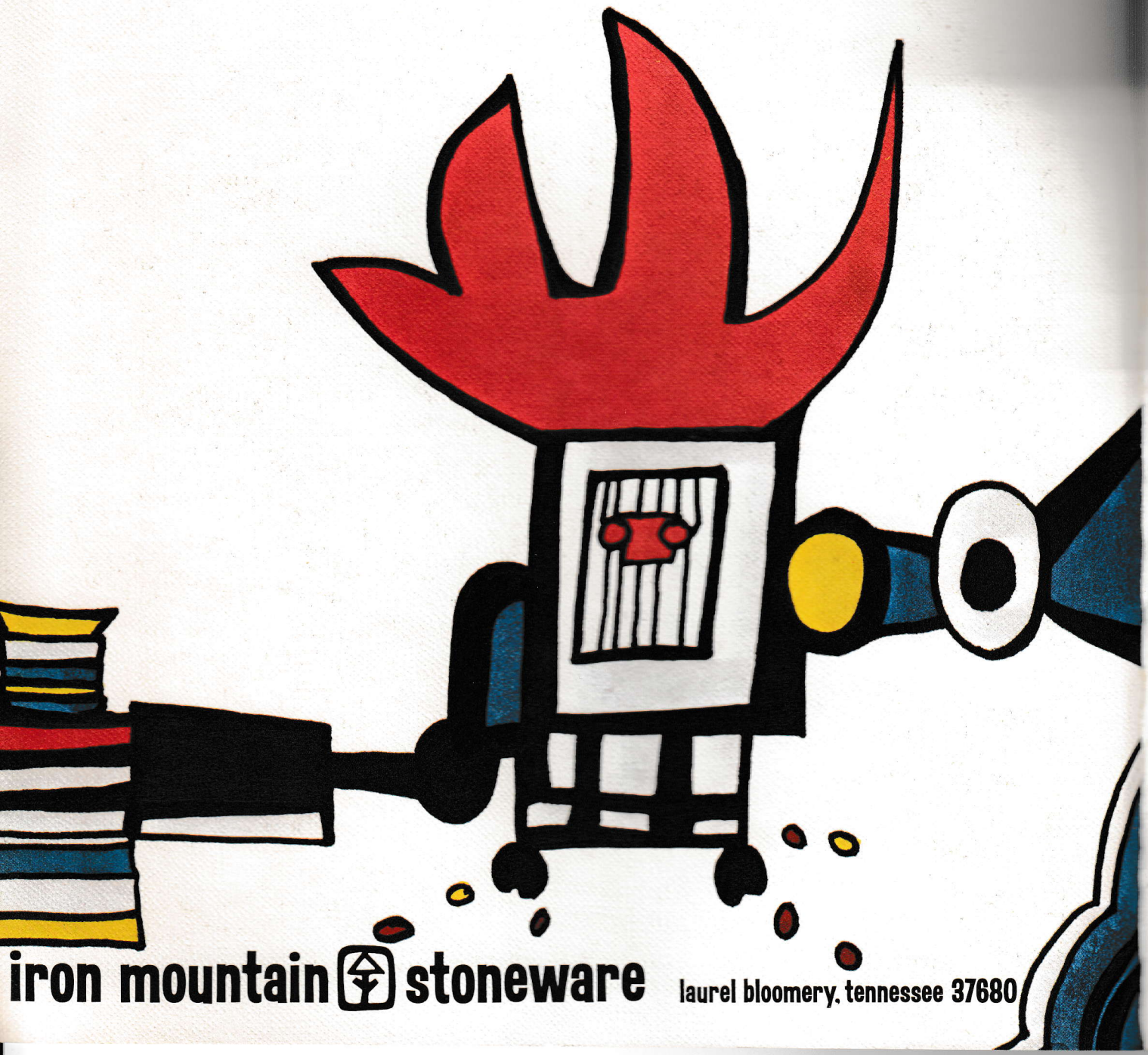
the story of iron mountain


iron mountain stoneware
laurel bloomery, tennessee 37680

the
the seasons

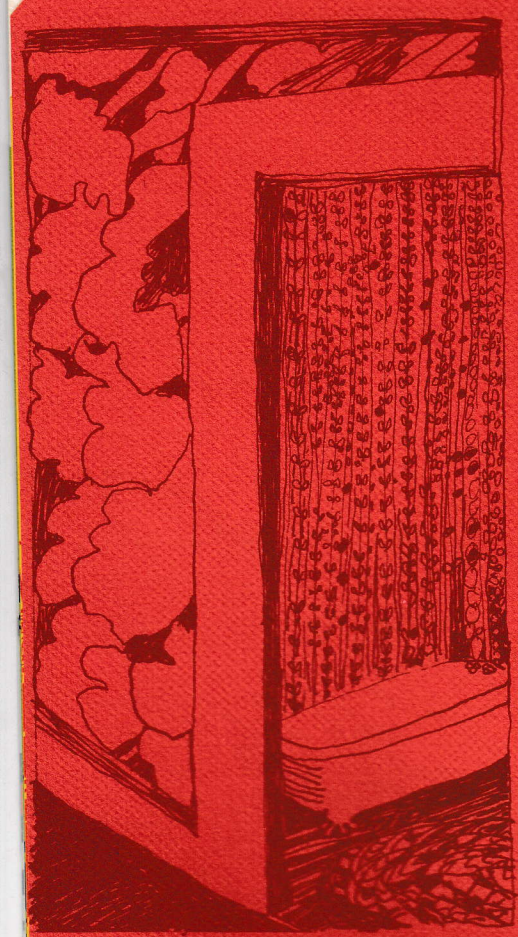
Hurry on up
the mountain
past the seasons of time
the Peaks
were worn
away
long
ago

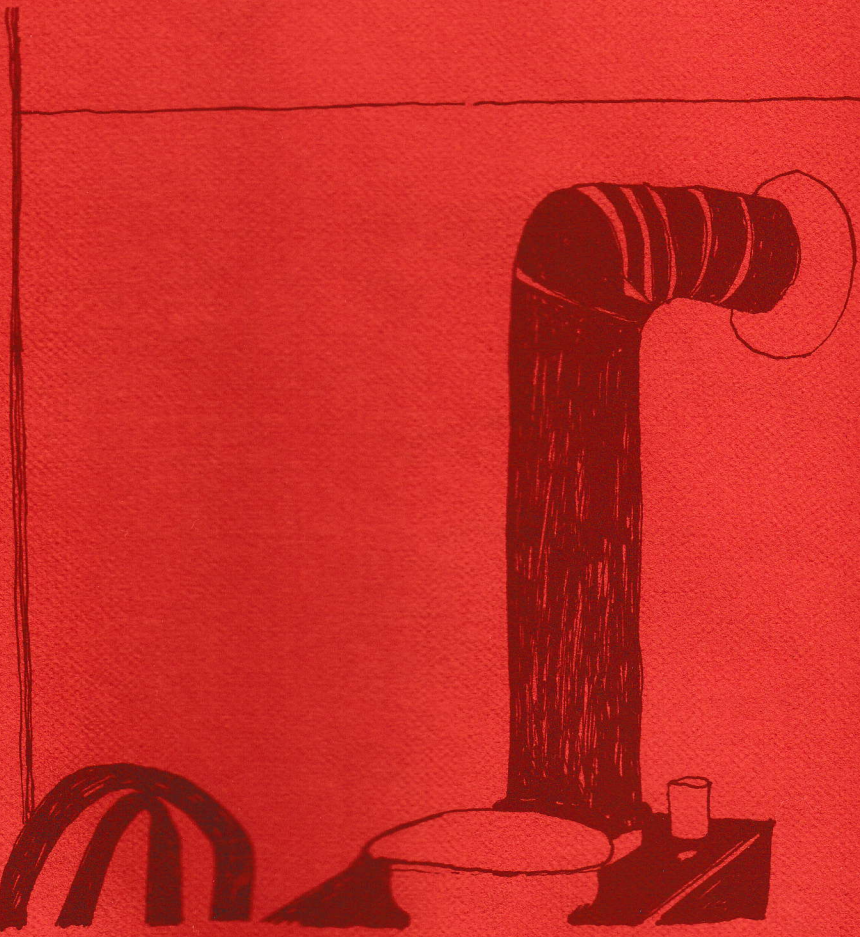
TOWS
TRACK
SPIRAL
PATHS
AROUND
THE
HILLS
STILL
TOO
STEEP
TO CLIMB
STRAIGHT
UP

Up in the Clouds
Pond mountain
Are
and Fodderstack
A
Blue
Today
Fog
Hangs
In the
Hollows
Way Below

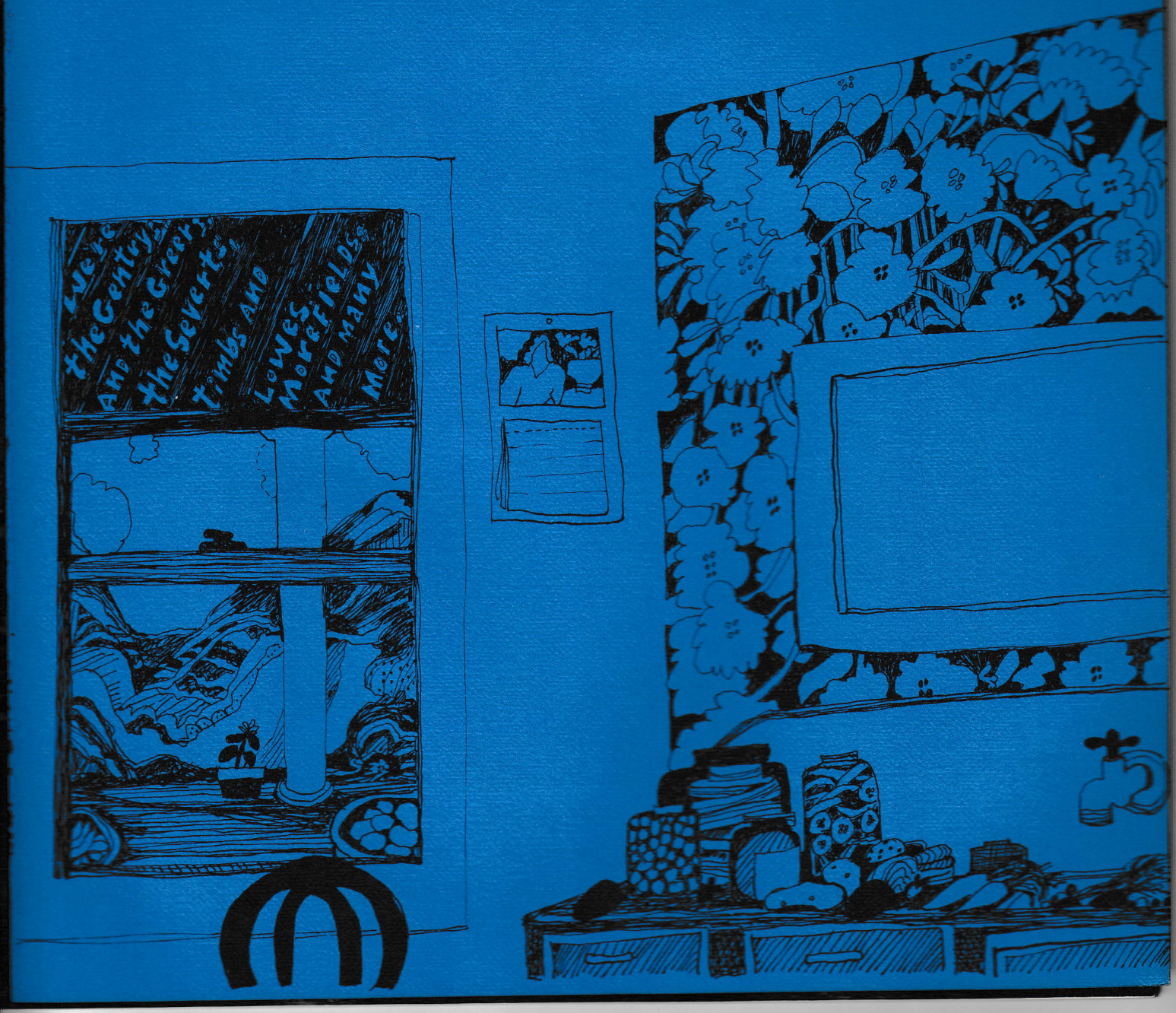
Logs burning under
iron pots
render lard.
Simmer sorghum, apple butter,
for outdoor laundry scrub

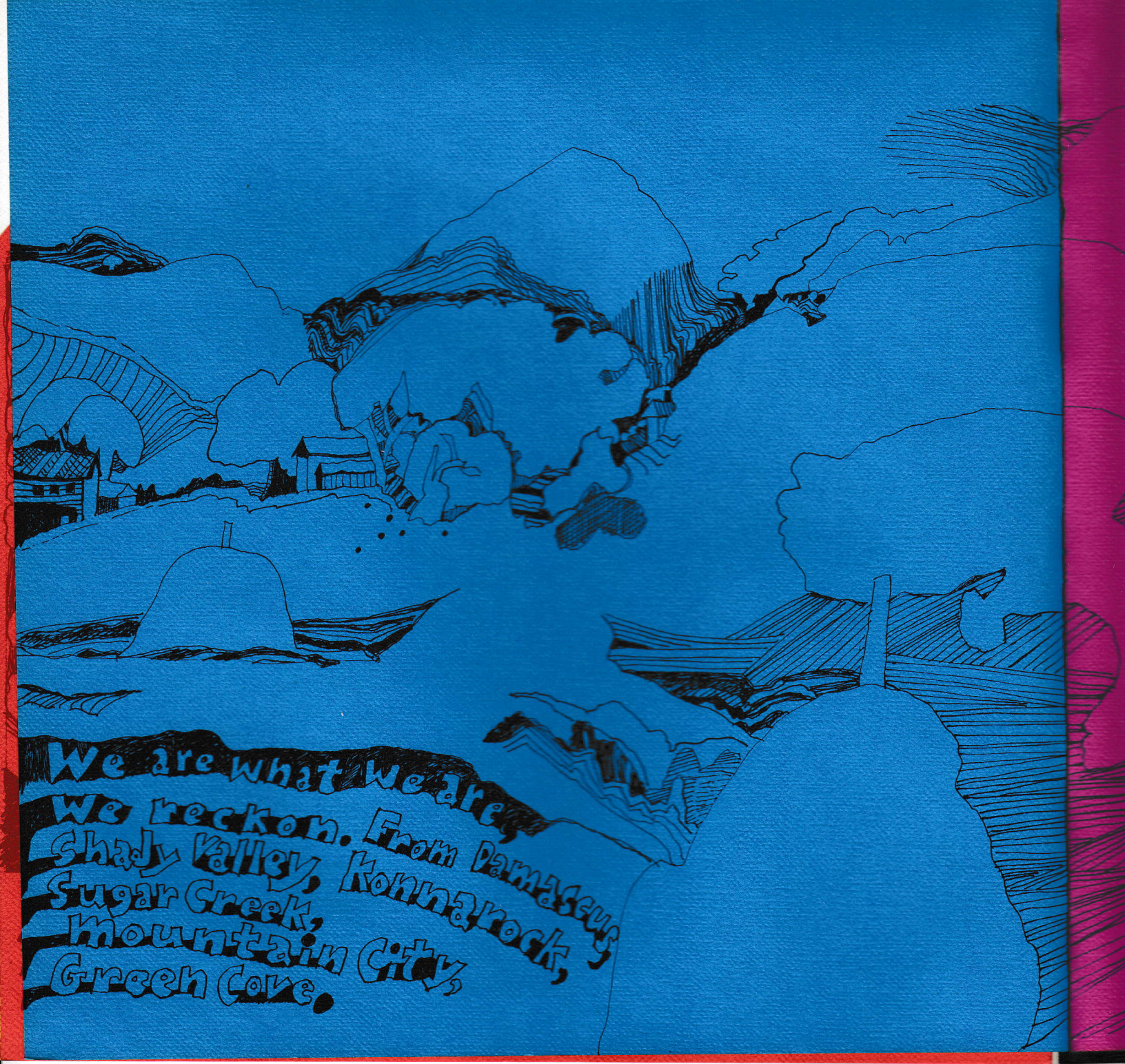
Most of us have
Always Lived here
Farming, shaping
the Fields. corn
tobacco turnips,
Beans

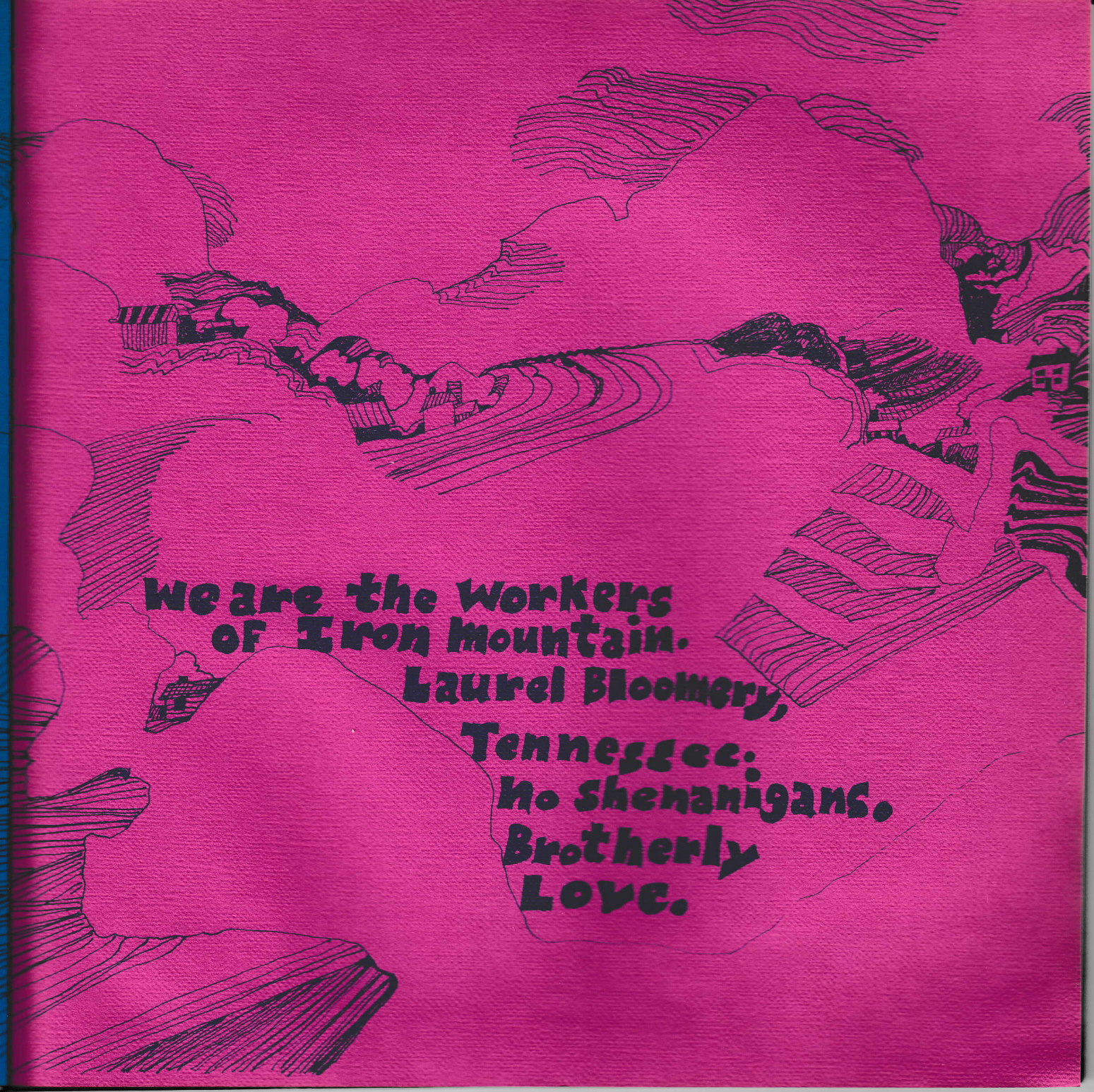




We are here where we want to work.
Away from the city, smoke, smog, rot.
No buses, street cars. Only horizons of forests.
East. West. South. North.

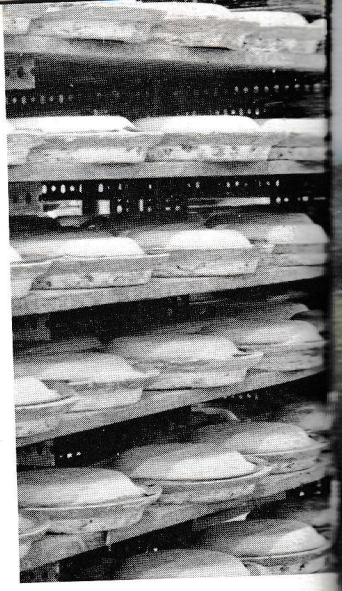

We're
the Gentry,
And the Greers,
the Severts,
Timbs And
Lowes,
Morefields,
And many
More.

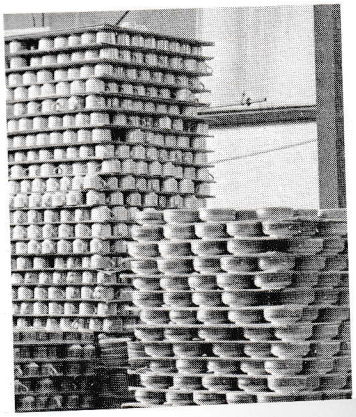

We are what we are,
We reckon. From Damascus,
Shady Valley, Konnarock,
Sugar Creek,
Mountain City,
Green Cove.

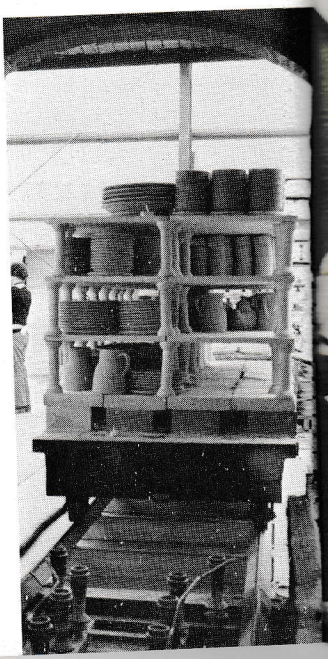

We are the Workers
of Iron Mountain.
Laurel Bloomery,
Tennessee.
No shenanigans.
Brotherly
Love.

With Earth,
Air, Fire, and
Water,
We make
Stoneware cups
And saucers, Dinner plates
And Bowls,
And much, much more.

white top

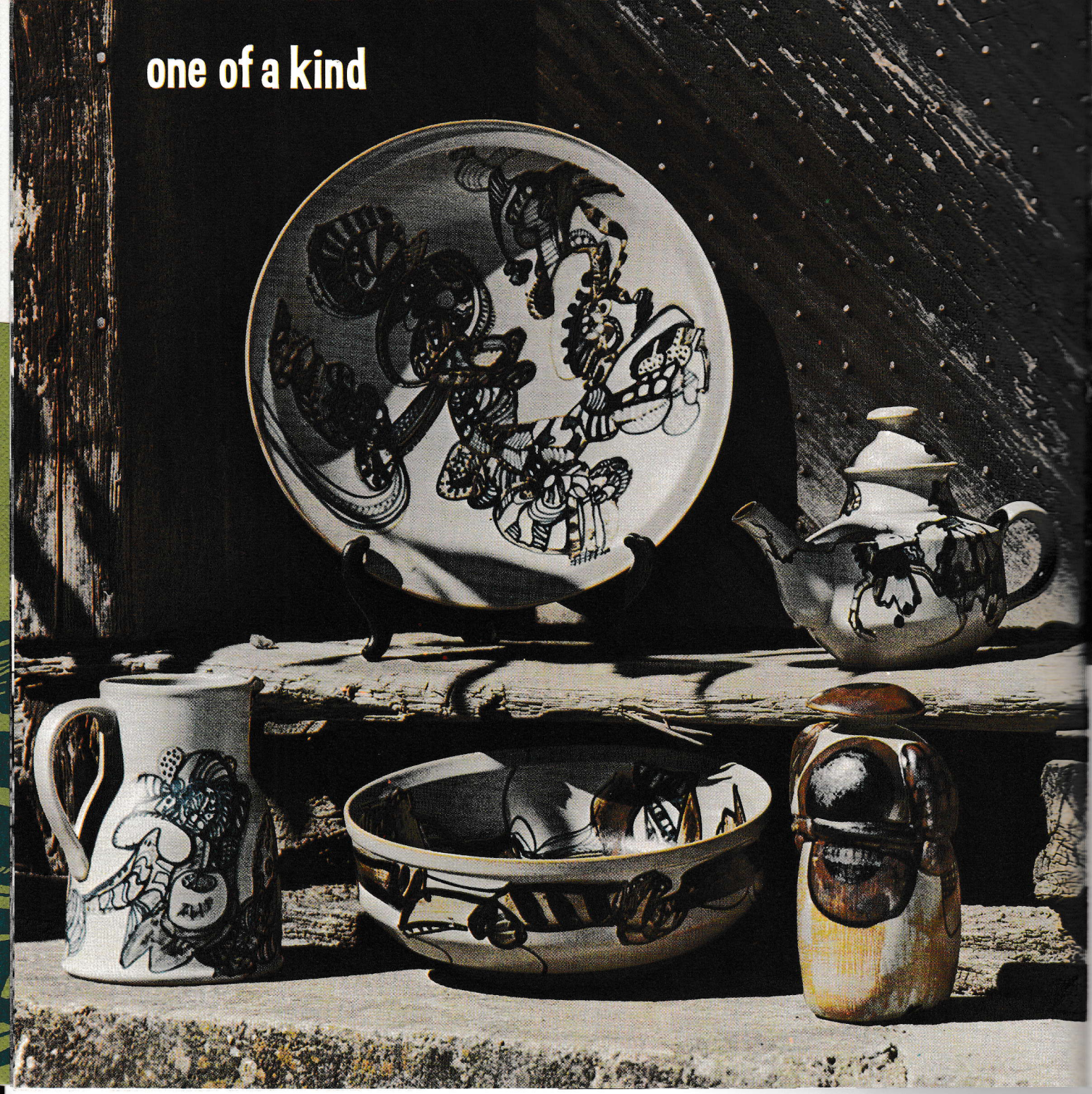






lookout mountain

one of a kind



we

in search of the

round

to find
to share
to move
a thought
thru
stone.

sally patterson

BA, MA; UC, berkeley
art, decorative arts
anthropology
artist, teacher, consultant
IMS, UVSCE, VSDE
california, virginia, tennessee

square

must
love to
imprint
the permanence
of ourselves
in melting
clay.

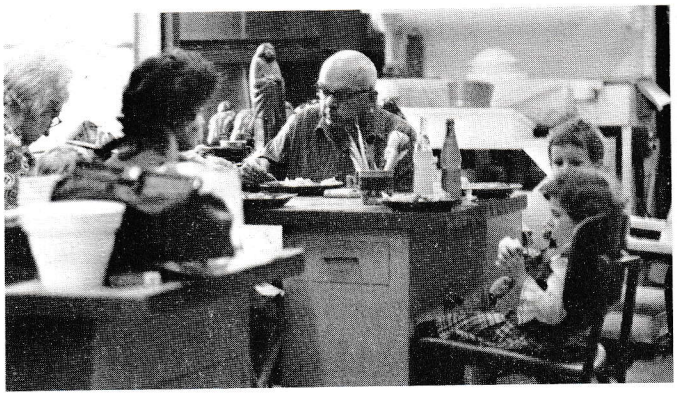
triangle

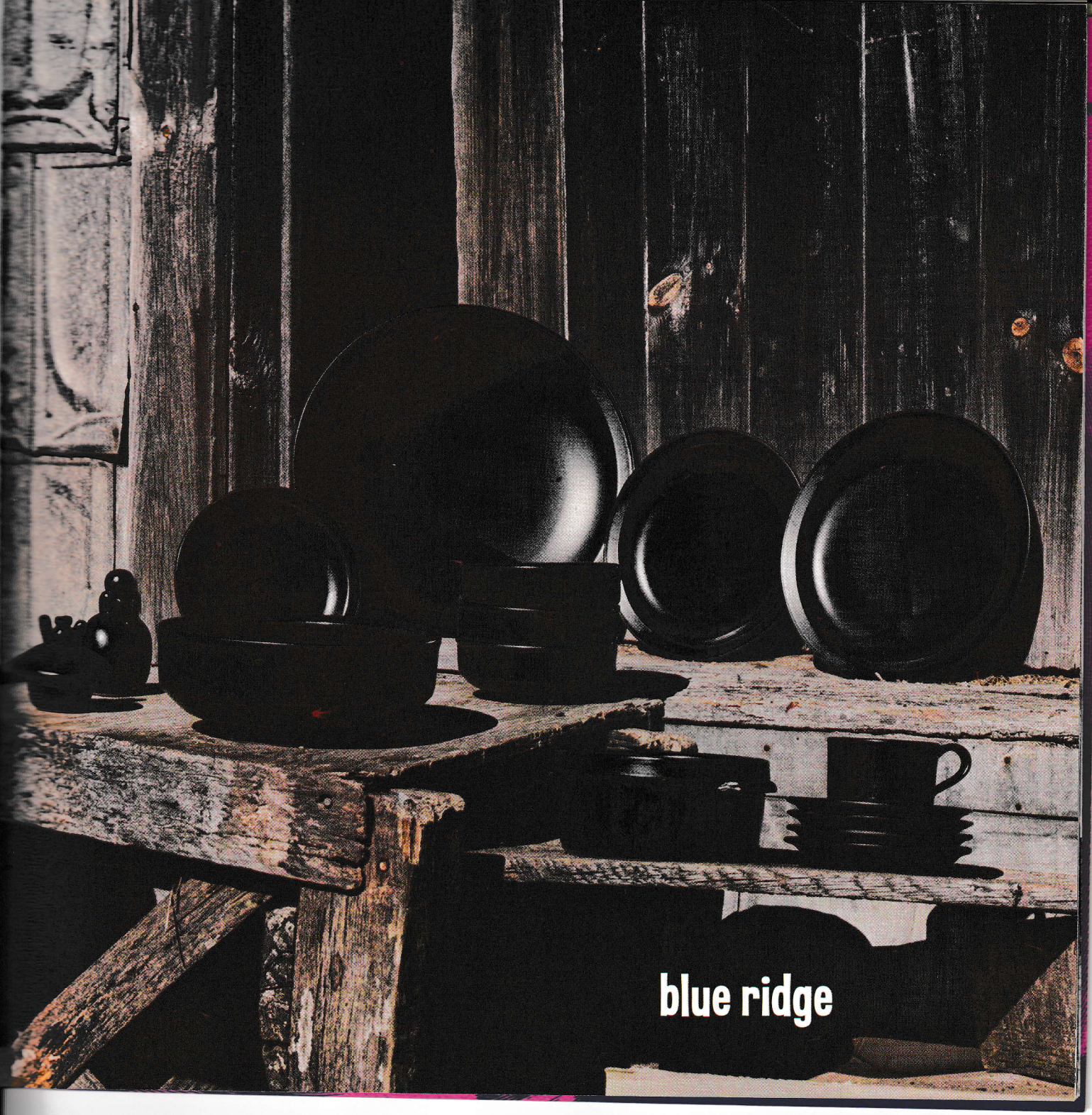
will climb
the mountain top
to pierce
the center
to make
a
shrine.

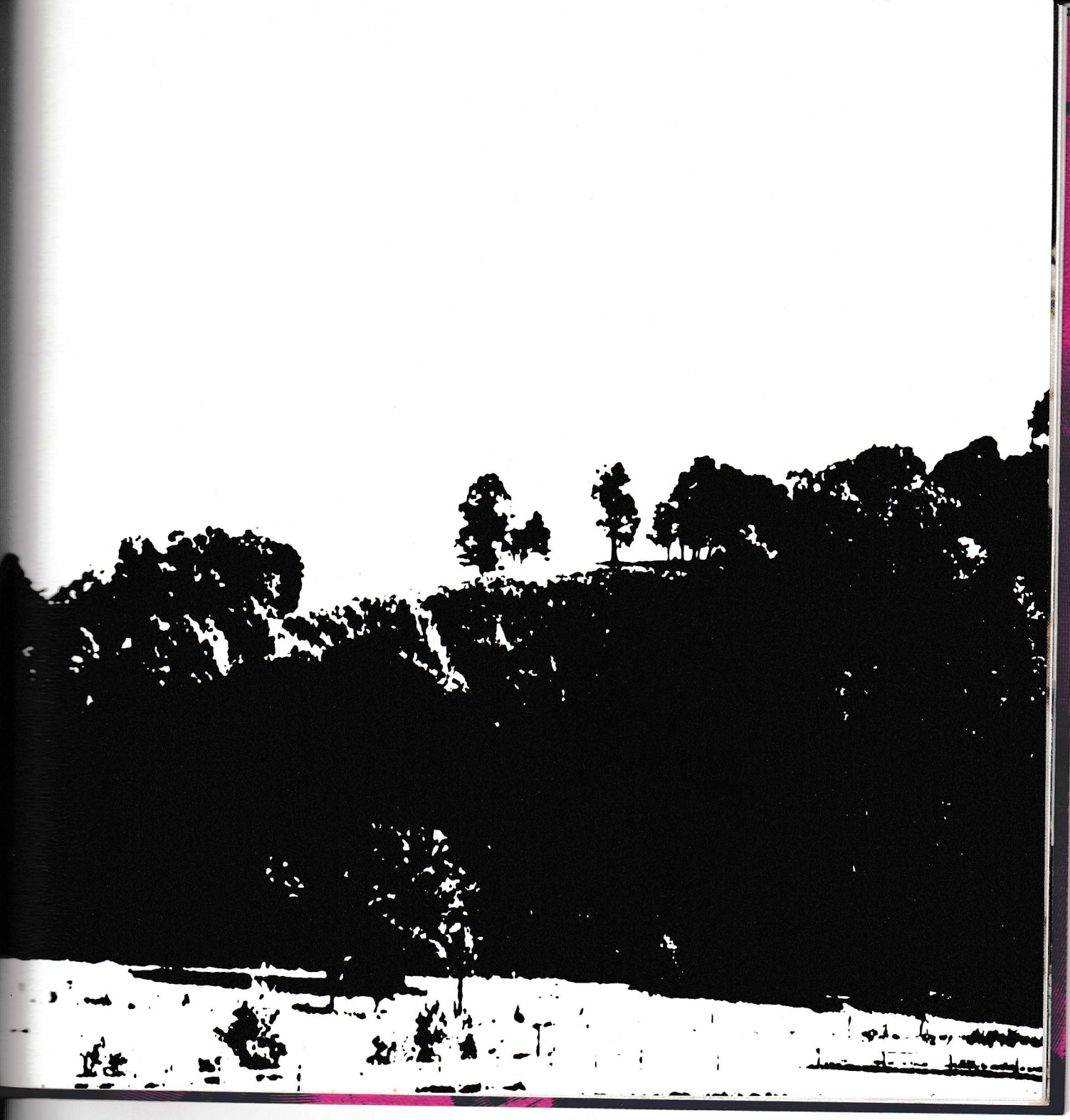
jim kaneko

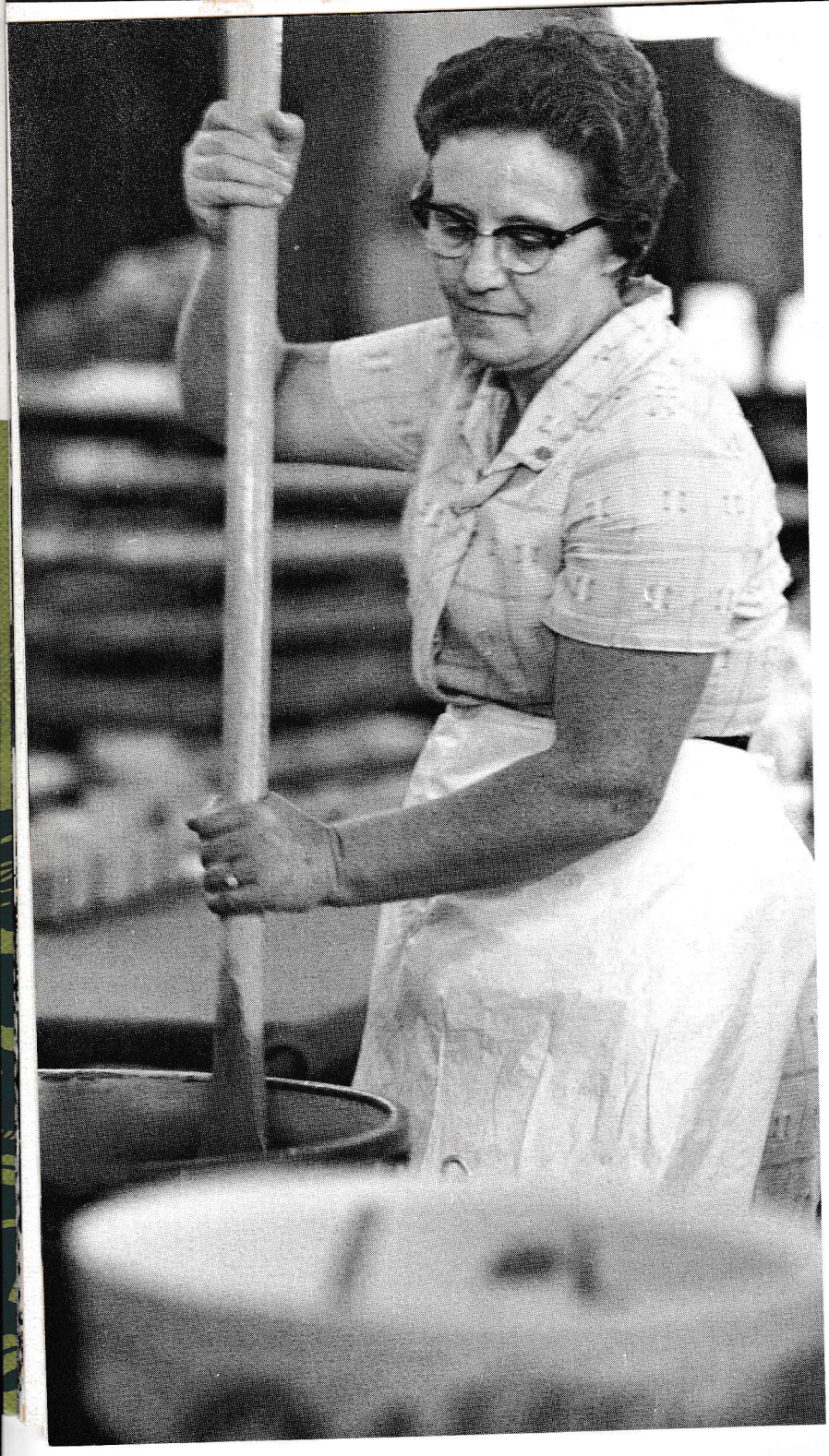
BA, MA; University of the Pacific, stockton
math, art, sculpture
CSU at Sacramento; UC, davis. ceramics.
artist, teacher, ceramicist
IMS, American River
california and tennessee

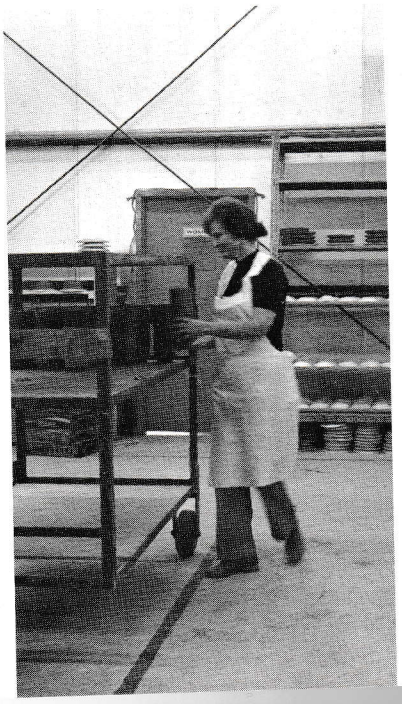
whispering pines

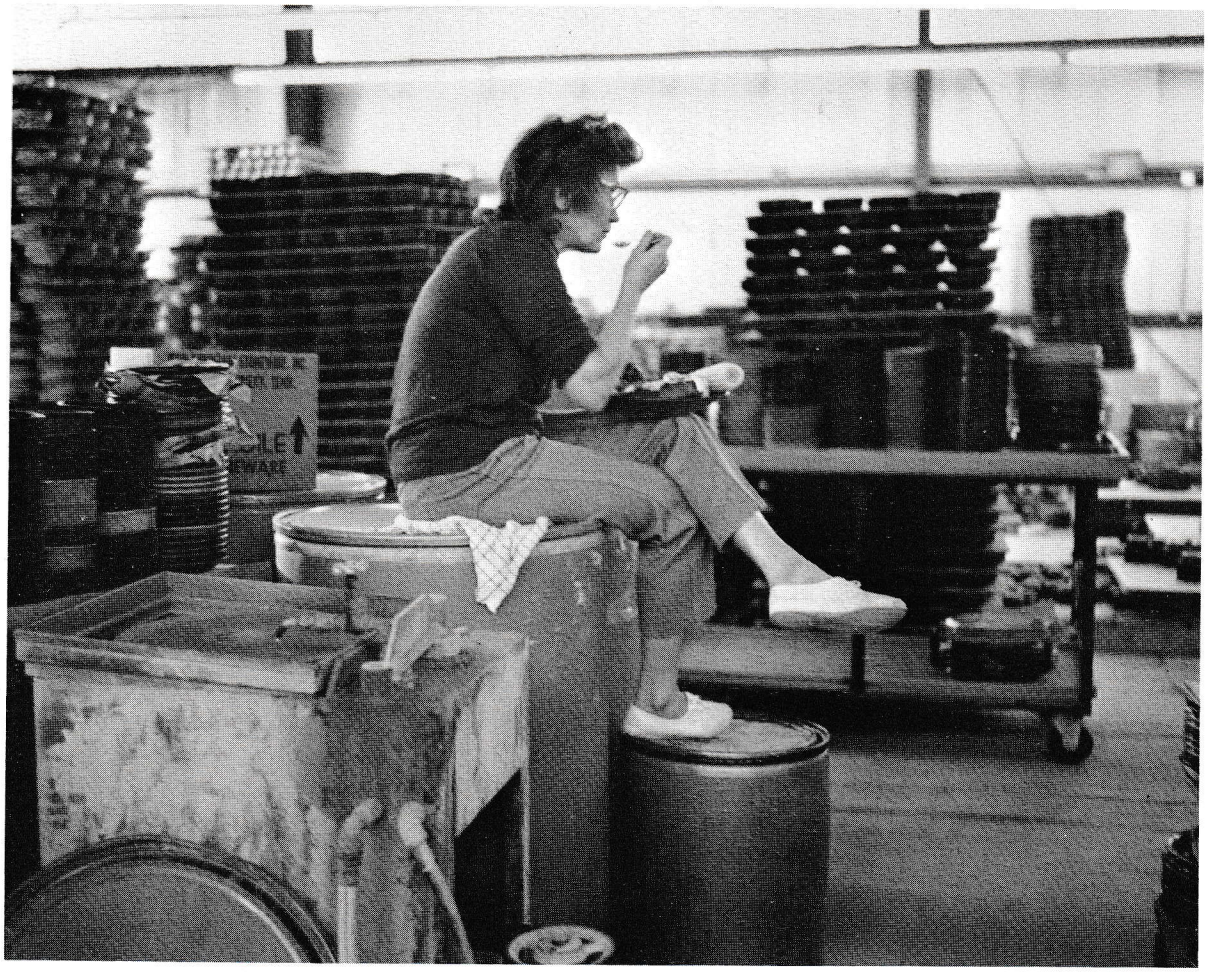


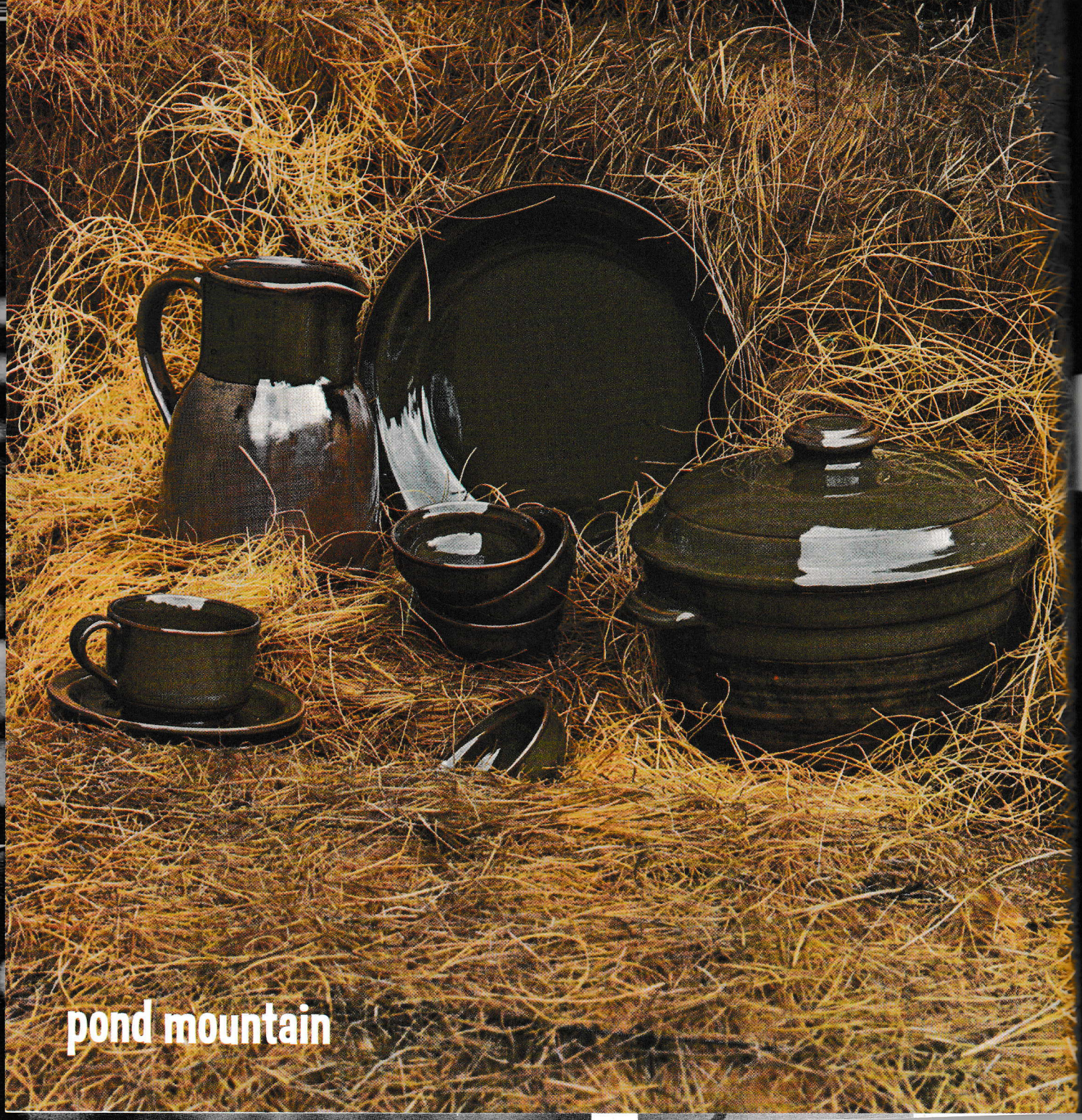

blue ridge

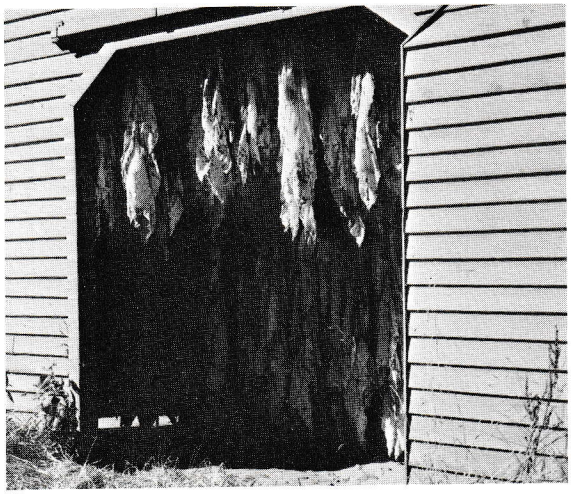


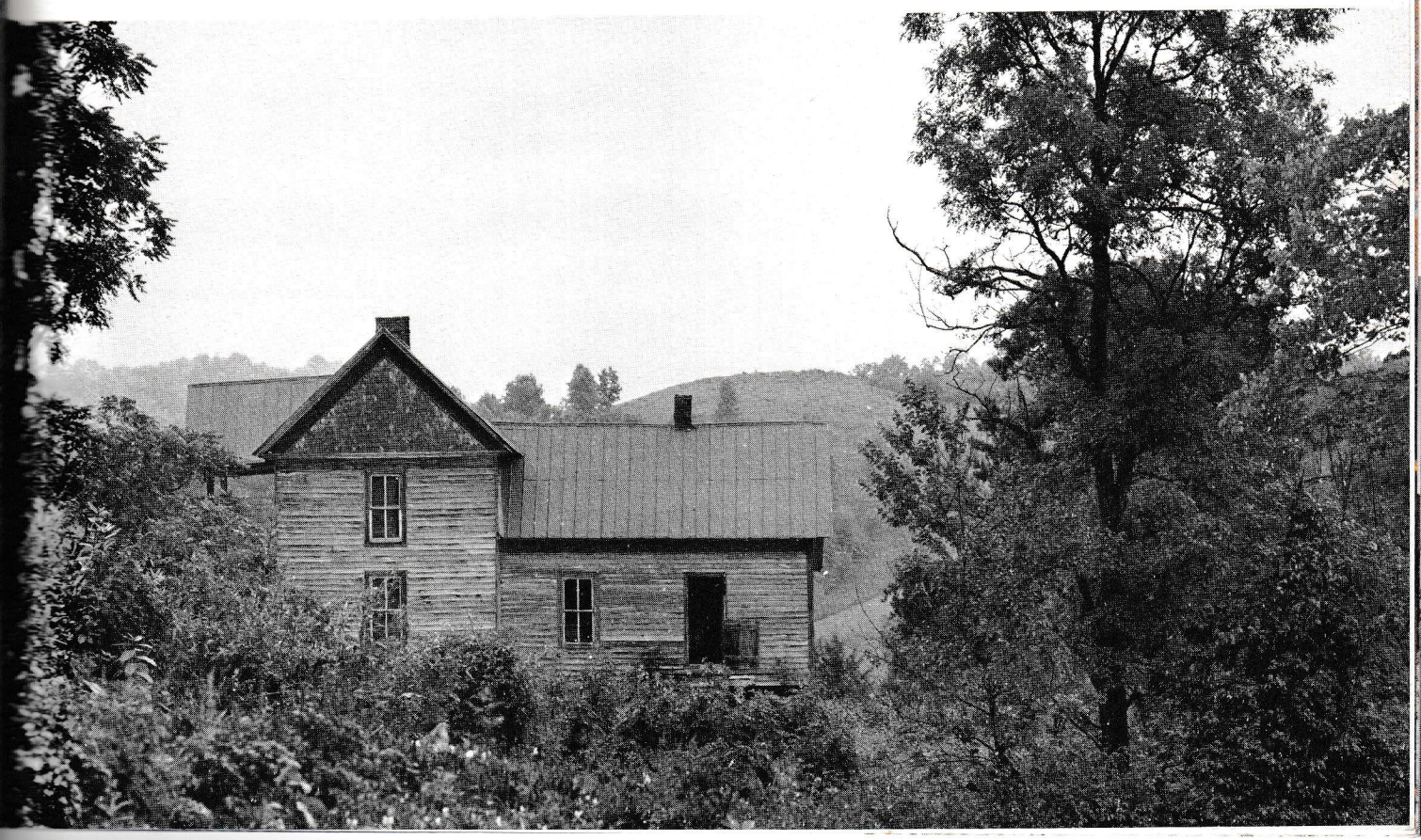




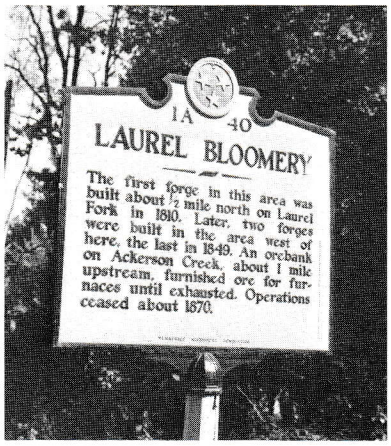


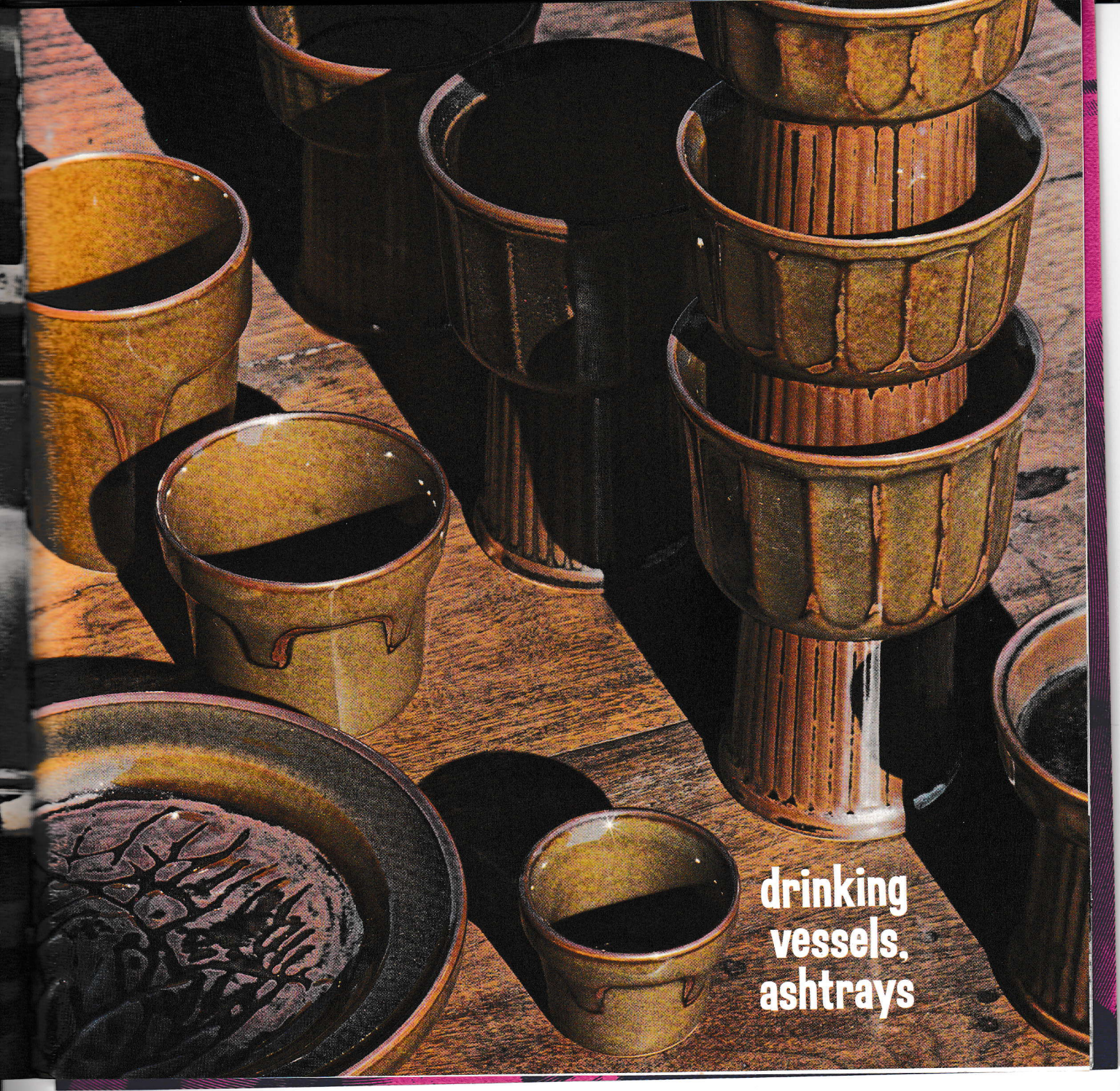

pond mountain



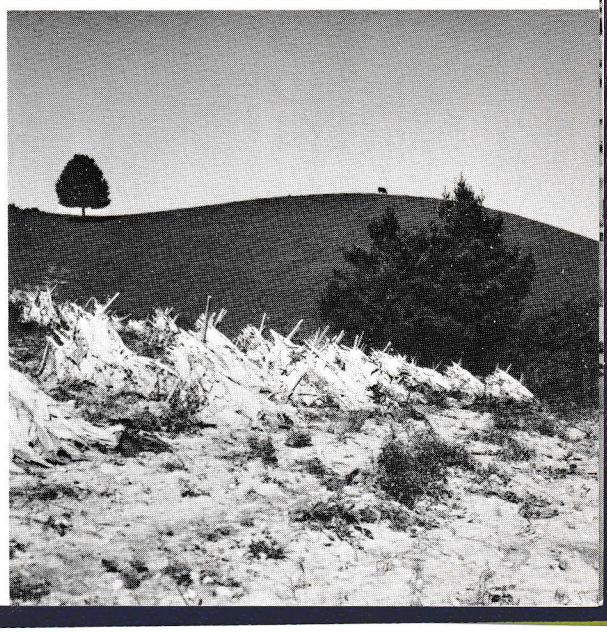


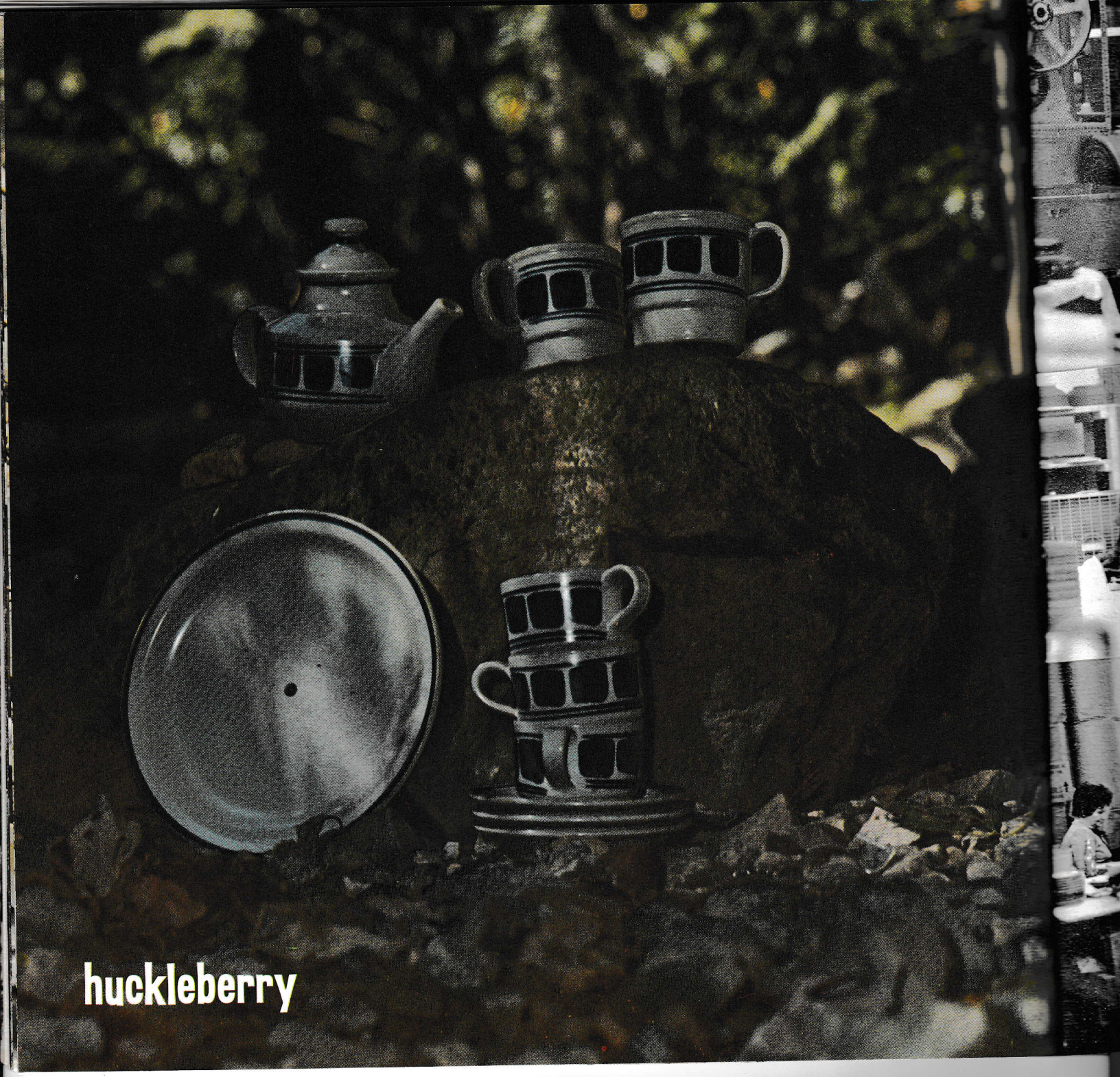
blacksburg

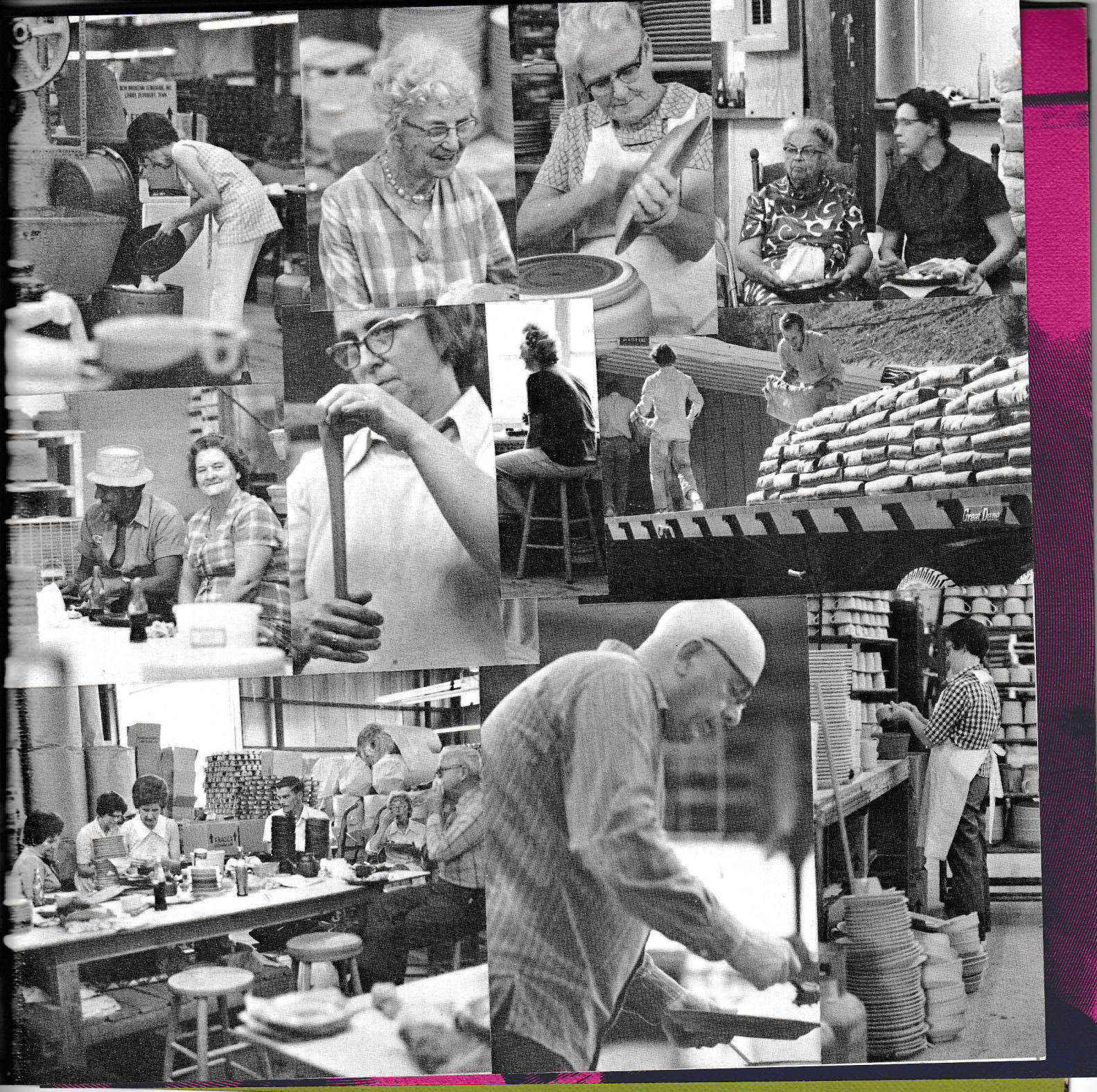

1A 40
LAUREL BLOOMERY
The first forge in this area was built about ½ mile north on Laurel Fork in 1810. Later, two forges were built in the area west of here, the last in 1849. An orebank on Ackerson Creek, about 1 mile upstream, furnished ore for furnaces until exhausted. Operations ceased about 1870.

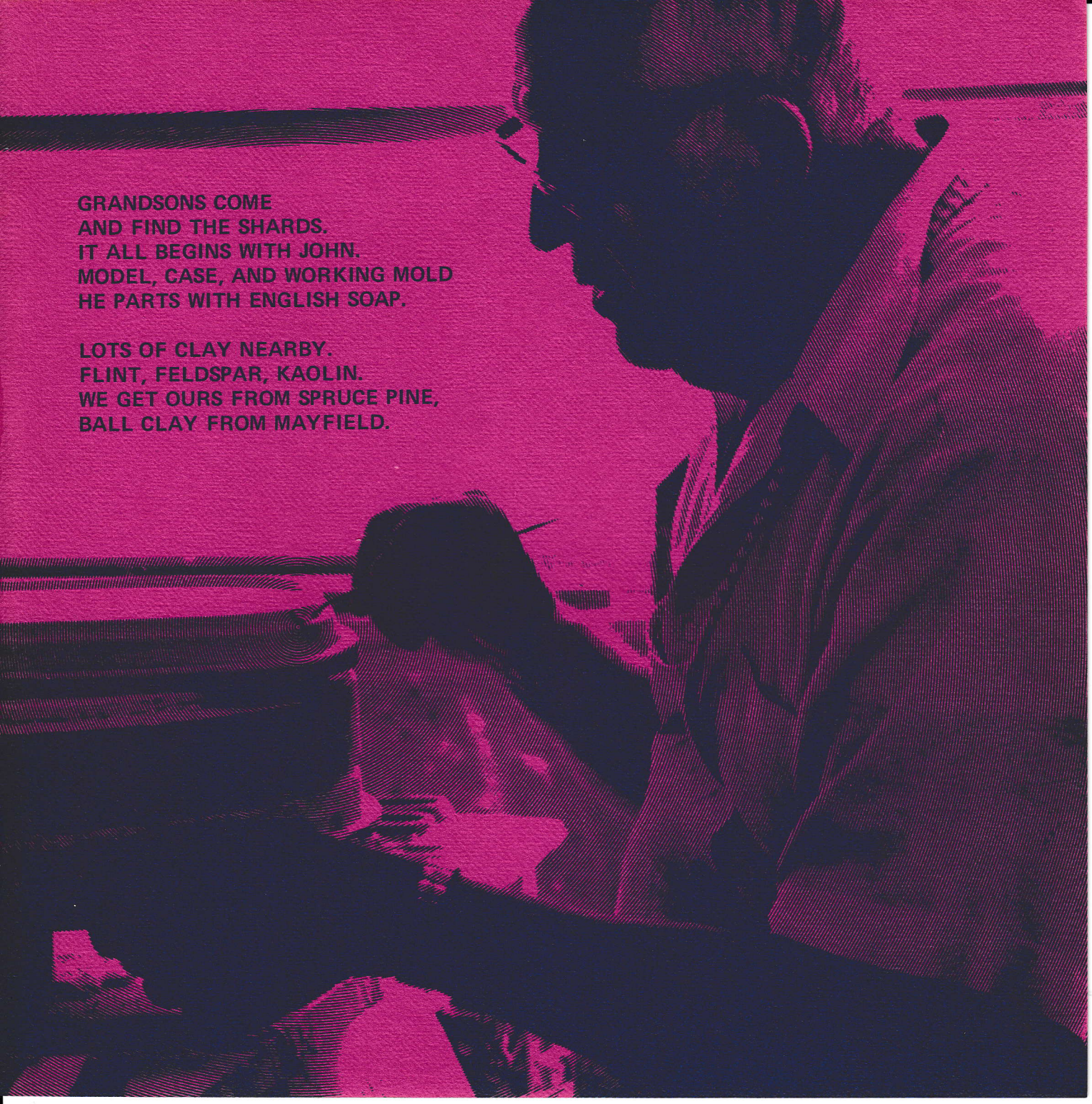

drinking
vessels,
ashtrays

roan mountain



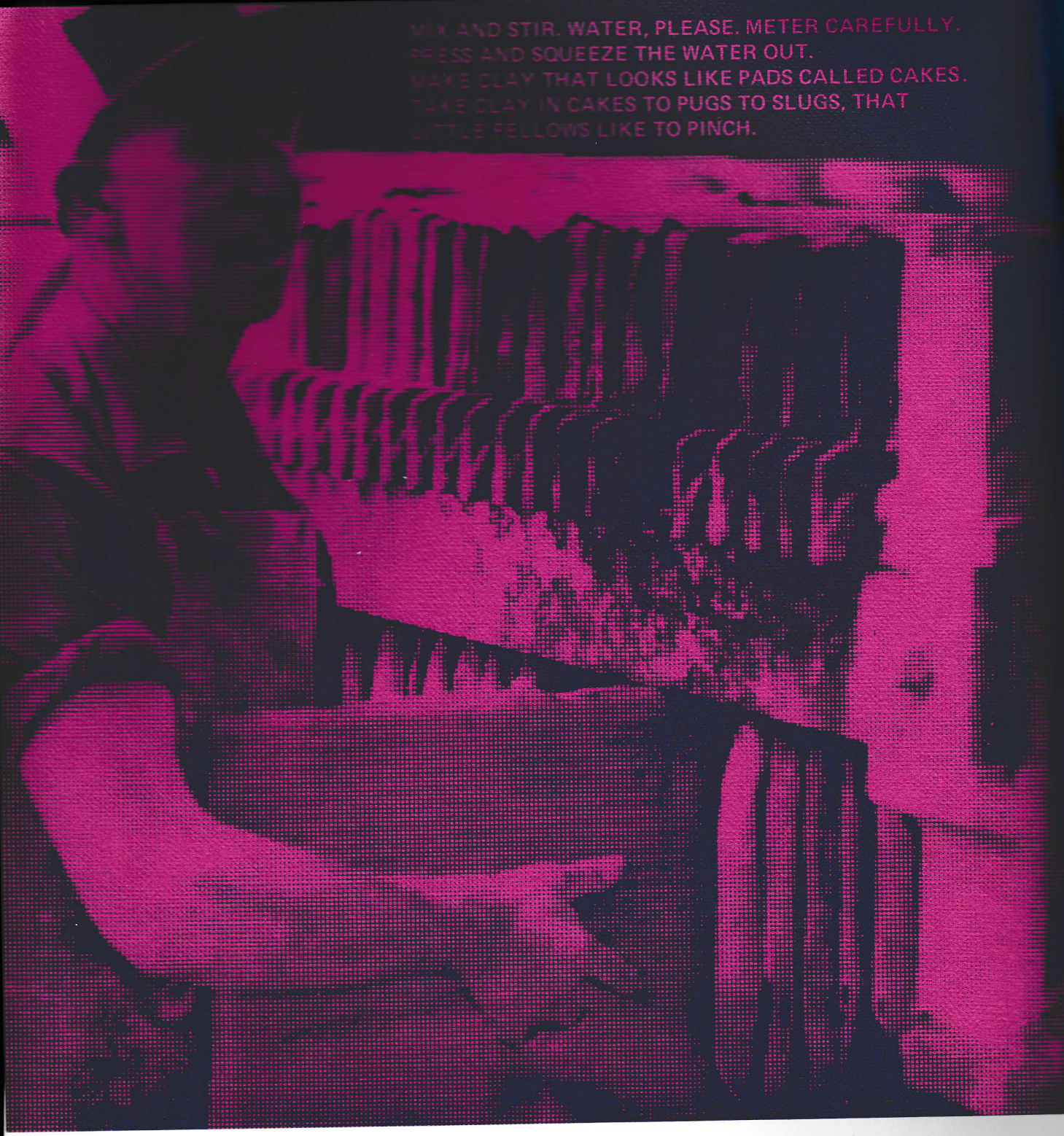

huckleberry

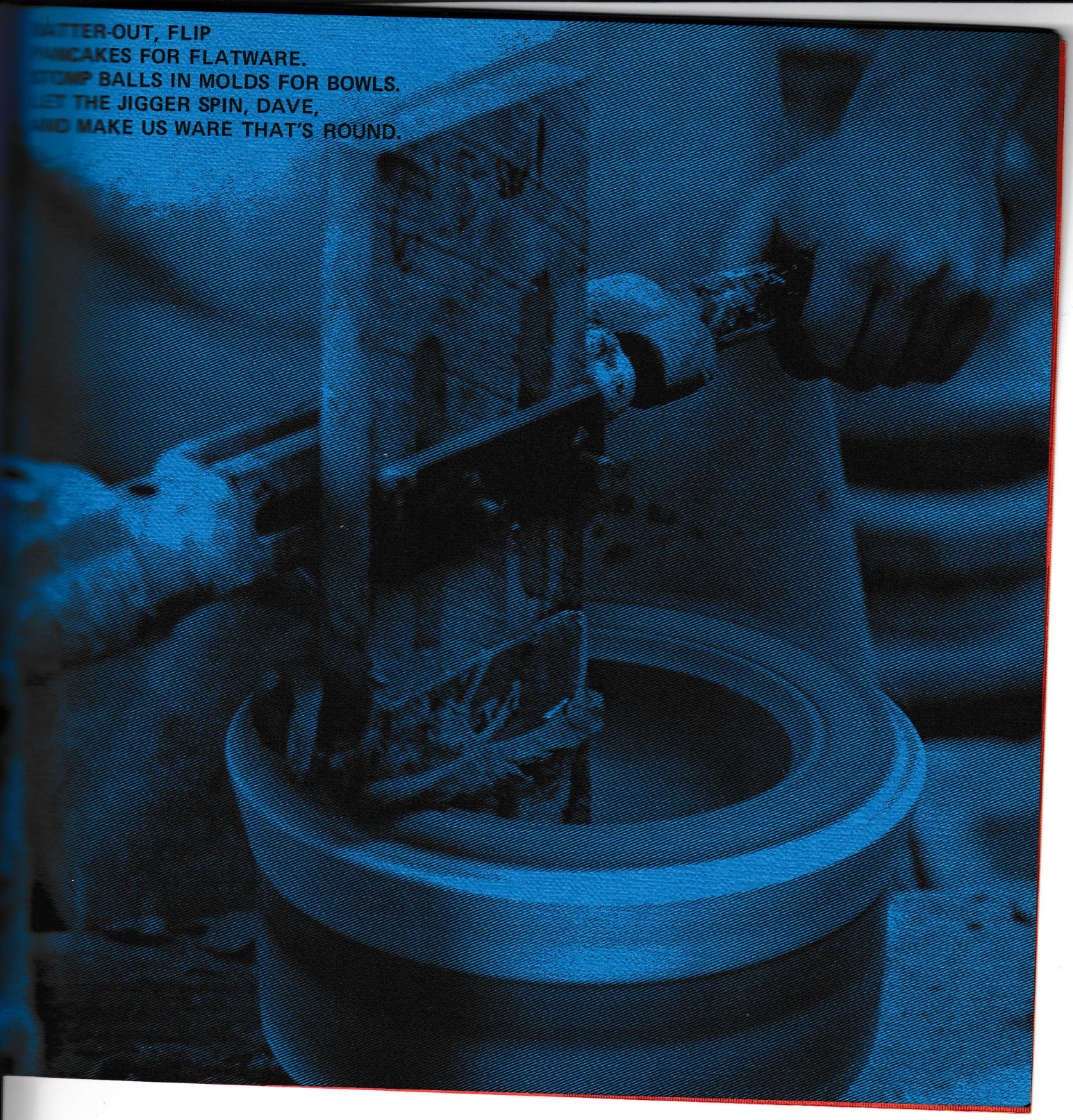


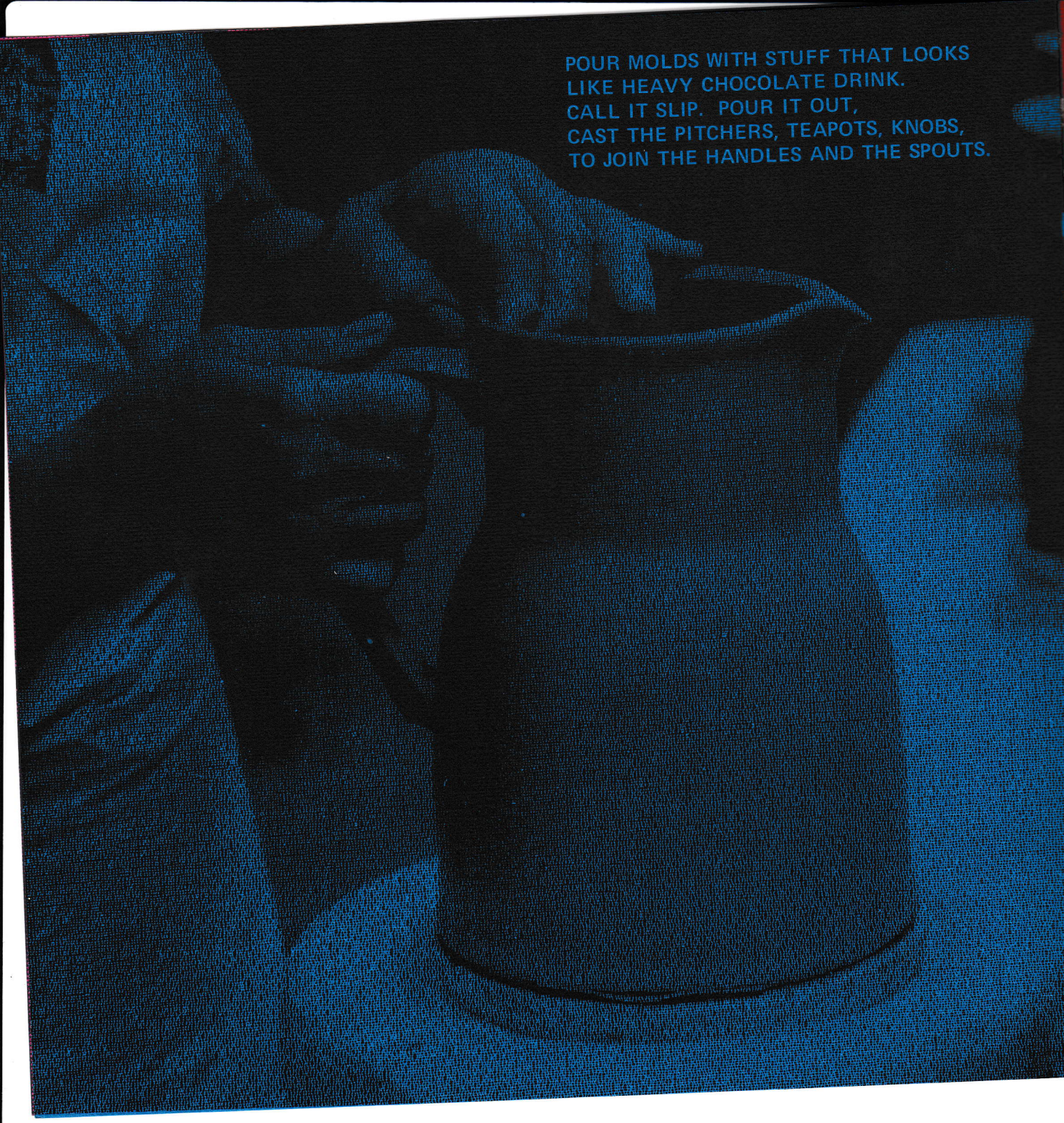


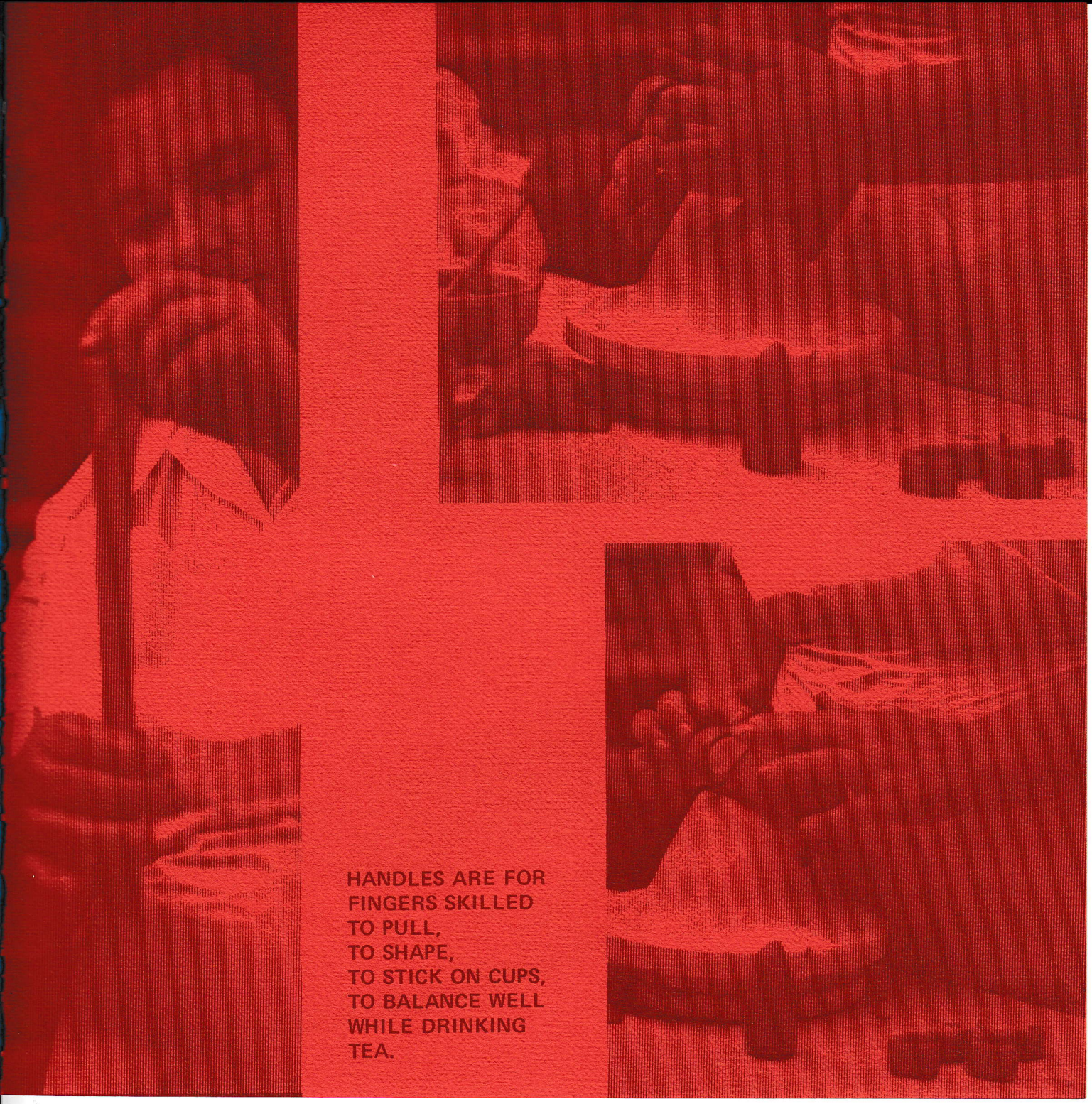
GRANDSONS COME
AND FIND THE SHARDS.
IT ALL BEGINS WITH JOHN.
MODEL, CASE, AND WORKING MOLD
HE PARTS WITH ENGLISH SOAP.

LOTS OF CLAY NEARBY.
FLINT, FELDSPAR, KAOLIN.
WE GET OURS FROM SPRUCE PINE,
BALL CLAY FROM MAYFIELD.

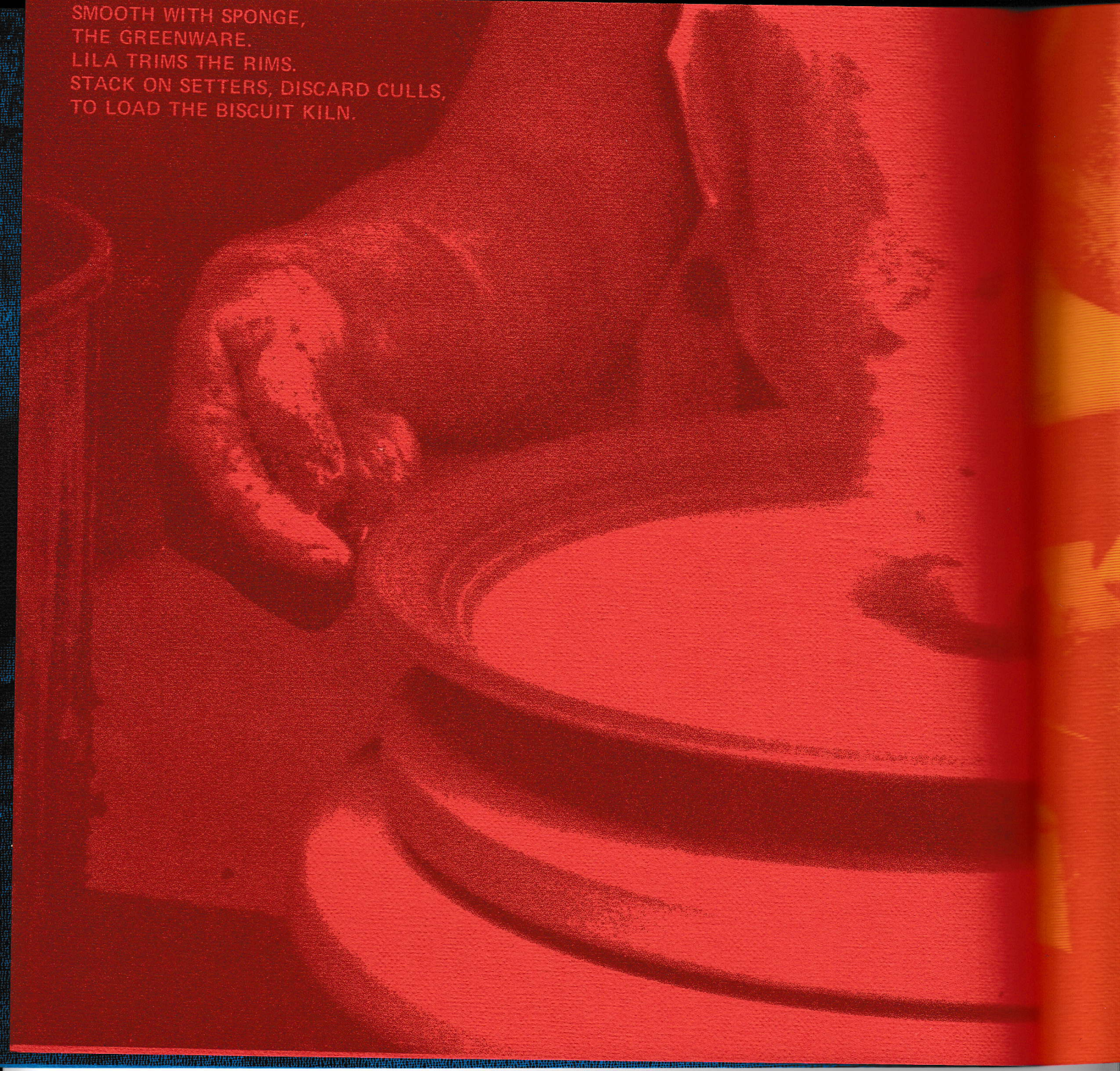

MIX AND STIR. WATER, PLEASE. METER CAREFULLY.
PRESS AND SQUEEZE THE WATER OUT.
MAKE CLAY THAT LOOKS LIKE PADS CALLED CAKES.
TAKE CLAY IN CAKES TO PUGS TO SLUGS, THAT
LITTLE FELLOWS LIKE TO PINCH.

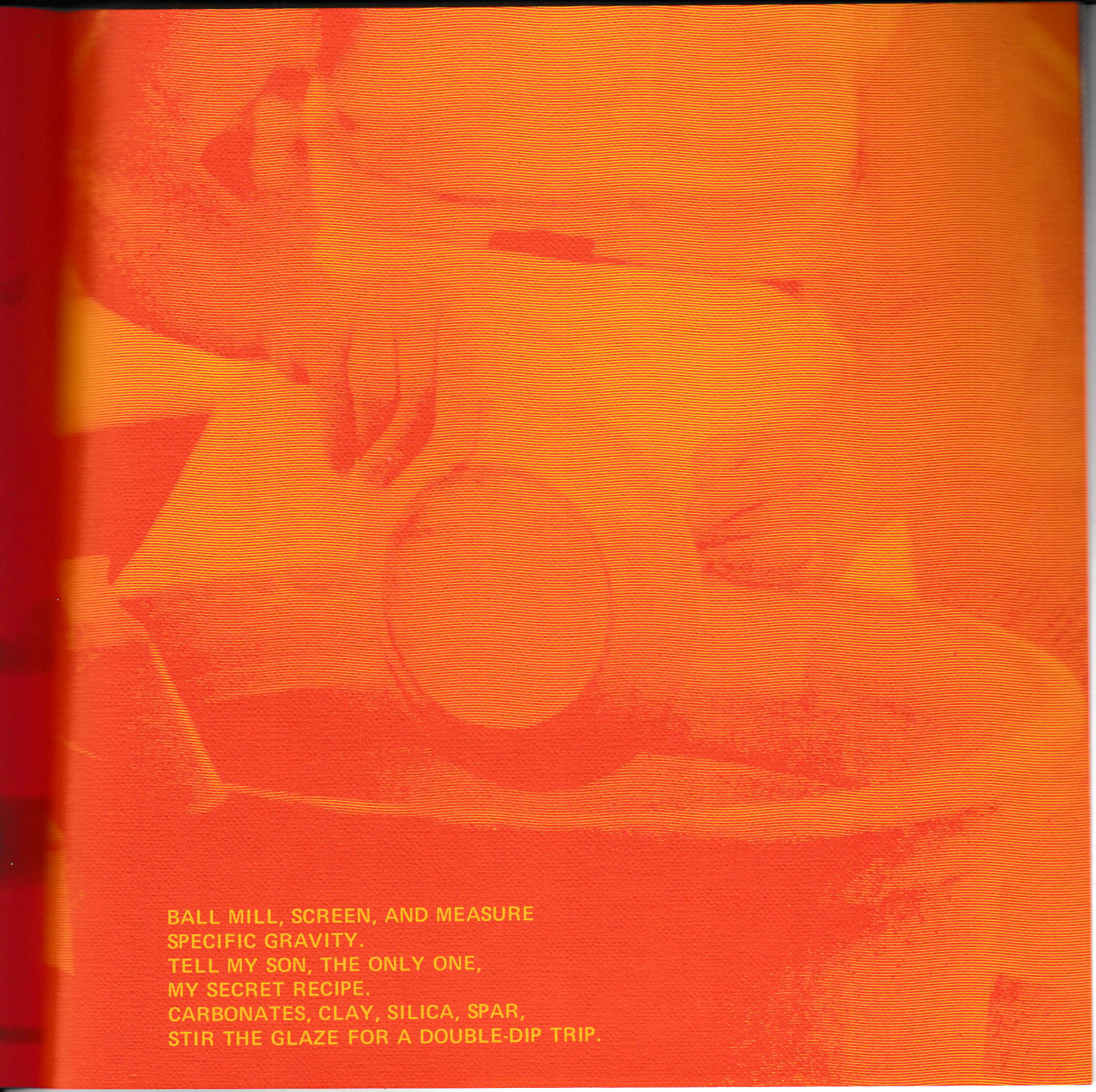

TTER-OUT, FLIP
CAKES FOR FLATWARE.
MP BALLS IN MOLDS FOR BOWLS.
T THE JIGGER SPIN, DAVE,
MAKE US WARE THAT'S ROUND.


POUR MOLDS WITH STUFF THAT LOOKS
LIKE HEAVY CHOCOLATE DRINK.
CALL IT SLIP. POUR IT OUT,
CAST THE PITCHERS, TEAPOTS, KNOBS,
TO JOIN THE HANDLES AND THE SPOUTS.



HANDLES ARE FOR
FINGERS SKILLED
TO PULL,
TO SHAPE,
TO STICK ON CUPS,
TO BALANCE WELL
WHILE DRINKING
TEA.


SMOOTH WITH SPONGE,
THE GREENWARE.
LILA TRIMS THE RIMS.
STACK ON SETTERS, DISCARD CULLS,
TO LOAD THE BISCUIT KILN.



BALL MILL, SCREEN, AND MEASURE
SPECIFIC GRAVITY.
TELL MY SON, THE ONLY ONE,
MY SECRET RECIPE.
CARBONATES, CLAY, SILICA, SPAR,
STIR THE GLAZE FOR A DOUBLE-DIP TRIP.

SLIP IN AND OUT
THE TUBS OF GLAZE
THEN CLEAN
AND WIPE EACH FOOT.

PAINT DOTS ON BOWLS
AND MUGS WITH STRIPES,
IRON ON THE LIP.
FERN,
WASH YOUR BRUSH
FOR COBALT BANDS
ON PLATES
OF OTHER PATTERN.

BIG BOB, PULL THE DAMPERS OUT.
SET GAUGES AND THE CONES.
THE WARE IS PLACED, CAREFULLY SPACED,
FOR GAS REDUCTION FIRE.
LIGHT THE BURNERS. FEEL THE HEAT.
TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED DEGREES, THE PEAK.

WHEN THE KILN IS COOL TOMORROW,
PICK
HUCKLEBERRIES
FOR BLACKSBURG.
LOOKOUT FOR WHISPERING PINES.
COME AND SEE THE MOUNTAINS,
WHITE TOP, ROAN, POND, BLUE RIDGE.

nancy patterson

NANCY PATTERSON'S BAG OF TOOLS,
BUCKLED WITH DETERMINATION OF HER OWN,
HAS BEEN ENDOWED WITH THE WISDOM AND
EXPERIENCE OF MANY OTHERS,
WHO HELPED REFINE THE RAW MATERIAL.

FROM AL AND LOUISA KING,
CAME CRAFTSMANSHIP,
KNOWLEDGE OF CHINESE GLAZES,
AND HARD-FIRED PORCELAIN.
King's Porcelain,
Los Angeles, California. 1949-1954.

TAUGHT BY THE DANES,
HAND SKILLS FOR FACTORY PRODUCTION
AND A LOVE FOR THE NATURAL BEAUTY,
OF STONEWARE.
Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory,
Copenhagen, Denmark. 1954-1956.

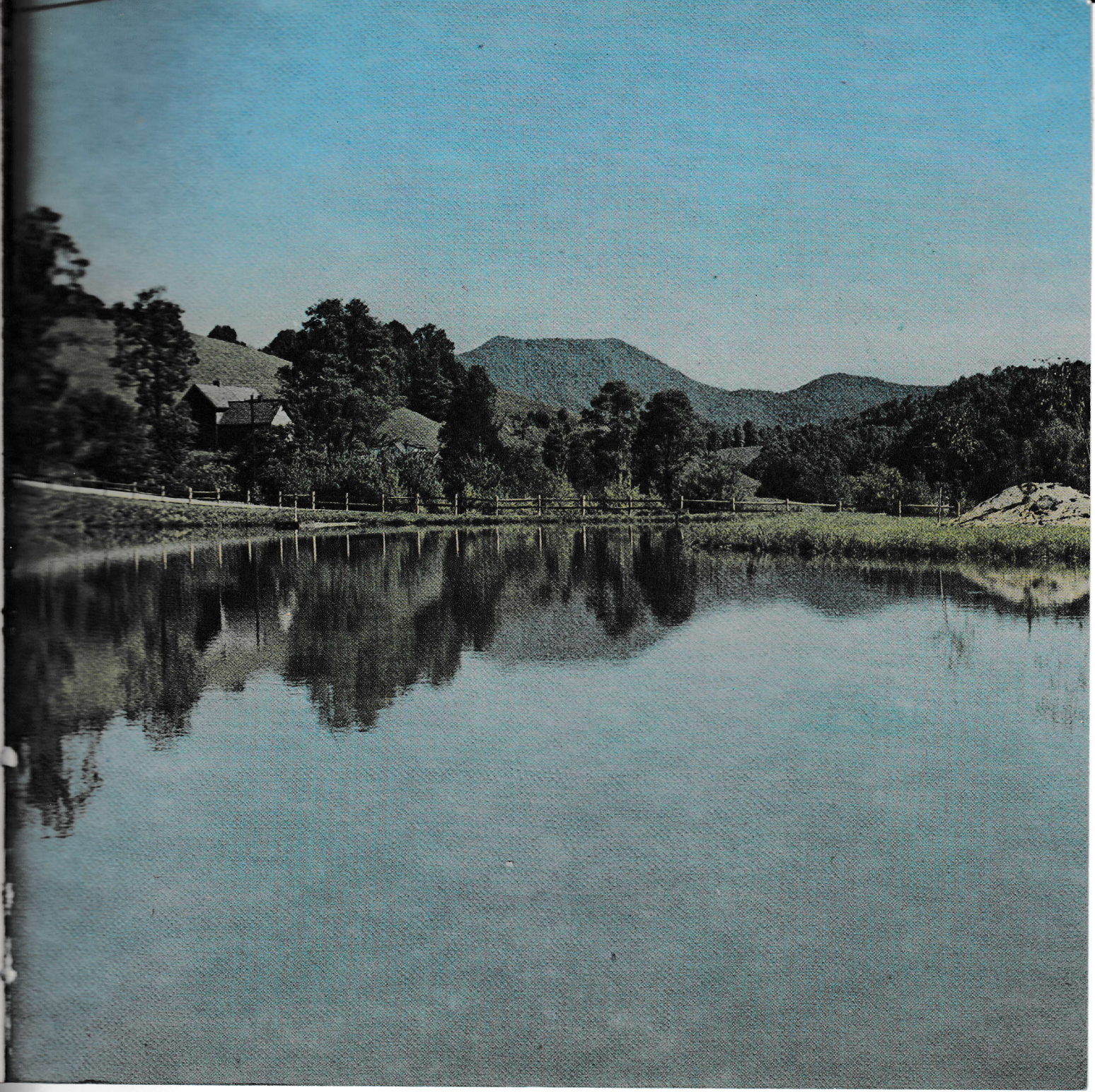
THE FINNS GAVE
INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM
TO WORK ALONE
WITH THE EARTH'S BEAUTY, FOR COMPANY.
A/B Arabia,
Helsinki, Finland. 1956-1957.

THE CHINESE TAUGHT PATIENCE
TO LONG FOR THE MOON
WHILE IMPROVISING WITH THE
RAW MATERIALS AT HAND.
Peitou Ceramic Plant,
Taipei, Taiwan. 1958-1961.

HOME AGAIN.
WEST TO SOUTH
TO APPALACHIA
WITH BRUSH AND TOOL STILL IN HAND
IRON MOUNTAIN WAS BEGUN. 1964.

Nancy is the wife of Joe Lamb.
Their children are Joe, 3; Kate, 2; Beth, 4.
Joe Lamb: mechanical engineer, tobacco farmer, porcelain collector,
man behind the scene at Iron Mountain.

Iron mountain stoneware is porcellaneous stoneware. It is hard, dense, vitrified, and rings like a bell when struck.



the story of iron mountain